**Course**: Gifted and Talented Seminar (2010-2011)

**School**: Cabot High School

**Instructor**: Sarah Cantrell

**Contact information:**

Classroom 1508 Phone: 843-3562 (work)

E-mail: [sarah.cantrell@cps.k12.ar.us](mailto:caroline.gairhan@cps.k12.ar.us) Plan Period: 8:00-8:50 (1st period)

**Required Books & Materials**

* Cambridge Educational Services (2005). *SAT Victory.* Cambridge Publishing: Des Plaines, IL. ***G/T Seminar students must purchase this book through the G/T Seminar teacher.***
* Gess, D and Gilbert, J (1999). *Soaring At the Top*. The Write Track Educational Publishers: Suffern, NY. ***The Cabot district will purchase this resource for all G/T Seminar students.***
* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3-ring binder with pockets binder (each class has a different color)
* Notebook paper
* 2 highlighters
* Blue or black ink pen
* Several No. 2 pencils
* Calculator--\*For standardized testing, students should have a calculator with which they are very comfortable. The calculator they may have purchased for use in math or science class will be perfect for G/T Seminar. I will provide basic function calculators in the classroom
* Paperback dictionary \*optional
* Index cards (for study) \*optional

**Course Description**

This course is designed for students who are motivated and desire preparation for college entry. G/T Seminar focuses on four core process areas: critical thinking, creative thinking, independent and group investigation, and personal growth. The primary mission of this class is to prepare students to succeed at high stakes exams, such as the PSAT (National Merit qualifying test), SAT and ACT. A secondary mission involves students accepting responsibility for their learning, using convergent and divergent thinking to develop alternate solutions, and valuing inquiry and lifelong learning.

**Course Objectives and Outcomes**

The student will:

1. Participate in cooperative groups to apply process skills learned in class.
2. Explore implications for students/educators/parents suggested by concepts learned in class.
3. Continue discussion of issues introduced in G/T Seminar.
4. Demonstrate growth in ability to collaborate to learn and support the learning of others.
5. Demonstrate growth in ability to use reflection as a tool for learning.
6. Explore methods to enhance decision making, to develop leadership characteristics and to meet or exceed in personal growth goals.
7. Create a comprehensive educational plan leading up to and through the university level.

**Evaluation and Grading**

1. Active participation in weekly assignments: test strategies, vocabulary building and process learning skills both independent and group
2. Active participation in book study of fiction text
3. Your grades will be distributed as follows:
   * 50% Test grades (including vocabulary quizzes)
   * 50% Daily work (including class activities)
4. I grade papers once a week, generally on Fridays. In Pinnacle (the online grading system), you will see the following numbers or letters:
   * X: stands for “exempt.” You will see this when you have missed a day and cannot make up an assignment or activity that we did in class. An X does not factor into your grade *at all*; it neither helps you nor harms you.
   * Z: stands for “zero.” You have not turned in an assignment that I have graded. If you turn in an assignment for which you have received a Z, the paper will be graded and will replace the Z. Zs calculate as *zeroes* in your grade. Simply turn in your assignment to eliminate the Zs!
   * Any number: this is your grade. Numbers indicate an assignment has been graded. Numbers will never change. Once you get a grade, it will be your grade forever. Do your assignments right the first time!

**Absence Procedures**

1. If you are absent, check the calendar at the front of the class to see what you have missed. Do not wonder if you have missed anything important. Yes, you did!
2. Handouts are placed daily in the labeled drawers in front of my desk. Help yourself to what you have missed. Handouts older than one week are placed in the bottom drawer.
3. You have as many days as you have missed for making up assignments. Therefore, if you miss one day, you will have one day to make up the work. If you miss 10 days, you will have 10 days to make up the work.
4. You are responsible for learning the material that was covered while you were absent! Make sure that you get with a classmate and copy their notes, learn the vocabulary, etc.

**Class rules**

1. Respect yourself.
2. Respect others.
3. Responsibility for all your actions.